

## SYLLABUS

This course is limited to juvenile delinquency and status offenses in juvenile court and juveniles tried as adults. Issues of abuse, neglect, and the rights of juveniles in civil matters are addressed in the separate Juvenile Law course. For fall 2009, we will continue a focus on the current effort to rewrite the Georgia juvenile code. After considering the history and implementation of juvenile courts in the United States, we will critique contemporary juvenile justice approaches generally and delinquency/status offense provisions of the Proposed Model Code\* and Georgia SB 292 specifically. All research papers will address issues of twenty-first century juvenile justice reform and relate them to Georgia reform efforts. There is no textbook for the course. All materials can be accessed on line, and **each student is responsible for bringing a hard copy of the assigned materials to class each week.** You can expect to print over 500 pages for class assignments.

- Materials: Assigned materials can be accessed online. You are required to bring a copy of assigned materials to class.
- Writing Text: Students are strongly encouraged to consult a writing text such as Fajans, Scholarly Writing for Law Students, which is on reserve in the law library.
- Requirements: Regular attendance is required. Students with more than three absences will receive a failing grade in the course. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late are required to report themselves as absent. Preparation and participation are expected. A student who is unprepared will be considered absent. Some classes may require observation at Atlanta area juvenile courts. Class participation consists of weekly participation and a presentation on the research paper. Class participation will count as 25% of the final grade. A major research paper or a series of shorter research papers is required, as discussed below. A student may satisfy the writing requirement if the grade on the research paper (not the final grade) is 73 or better. A student who chooses the series of shorter papers will **not** be able to satisfy the writing requirement.
- Grading: A major analytical research paper on an approved topic related to juvenile justice is required. The paper will count as 75% of the final grade. The minimum page length is 25 pages, double-spaced., excluding endnotes or footnotes. Endnotes or footnotes should conform to the Bluebook or ALWD rules for law review articles. The paper topic and outline must be

approved by the instructor. A typed draft must be submitted. An acceptable paper will demonstrate good research, writing and organizational skills and must include significant original analysis. The final paper must include a table of contents and a bibliography.

**Alternative:** A student may choose to do two shorter research projects as an alternative to one in-depth paper. The projects are likely to require a written report of approximately 10 pages, each. Possible projects might involve interviewing court personnel, reviewing court records, or researching legal issues and preparing a report or memorandum. Projects must be approved by the instructor.

**An outline must be submitted on September 29, 2009, and a draft must be submitted on October 27, 2009. The final paper is due on December 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.**

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 to 4:00. Other times as available or by appointment.

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## Assignments

- Class 1 – 8/18 History and Philosophy of the Juvenile Justice System – The First 70 Years and Why They Matter
- Read and be prepared to discuss: Fox, “Juvenile Justice Reform: An Historical Perspective,” 22 Stanford Law Review 1187(1970).
- Class 2 – 8/25 Juvenile Justice Research Presentation – Prof. Ron Wheeler
- Constitutional Foundations of Contemporary Juvenile Justice:  
Kent v. United States, 383 U.S.541(1966)  
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)  
In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358 (1970)  
McKeiver v. Pennsylvania, 403 U.S. 528(1971)
- Class 3 – 9/1 Constitutional Foundations Continued:  
Fare v. Michael C.,442 U.S. 707(1979)  
Schall v. Martin, 467 U.S. 253 (1984)  
New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S.325 (1985)
- Overview of Georgia Law, Procedure and Practice:  
O.C.G.A. 15-11-1 et seq.  
Common Wisdom: [www.gaappleseed.org/children/reports/summary.pdf](http://www.gaappleseed.org/children/reports/summary.pdf)
- Class 4 – 9/8 The Road to Code Revision in Georgia
- Class 5 – 9/15 Contemporary Juvenile Justice Issues:Trying Juveniles as Adults  
Roper v. Simmons
- Class 6 – 9/22 Contemporary Juvenile Justice Issues – Race and Gender  
TBA
- Class 7 – 9/29 Outlines Due – No Class**
- Class 8 – 10/6 Court Observation - Summary/Reflection
- Class 9 – 10/13 Judicial Perspectives on Reform and Professionalism  
TBA
- Classes 10-14 Class Presentations

**Drafts due at the beginning of class on 10/27.**

**Final papers due by 5 p.m. on 12/16.**

NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.